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different larval forms of the Hymenoptera in the following words : "For instance, in the family of insects to which bees and wasps belong, some have grub larvæ, such as the bee and ant ; some have larvæ like caterpillars, such as the sawflies ; and there is a group of minute forms the larvæ of which live inside the eggs of other insects, and present very remarkable and abnormal forms." Anyone who was not a serious student of natural history would be totally misled in regard to the transformations of insects in general.

In discussing the vision of insects with compound eyes he speaks of the mosaic theory as the prevailing opinion. He might have cited the more recent theory, based on numerous experiments, that such insects probably see only color and movement. This would explain the difficulty the author meets in understanding "how an insect can obtain a correct impression when it looks at the world with five eyes, three of which see everything reversed, while two see things the right way up." Other paragraphs in the chapters on animal life which are treated more satisfactorily are those on "Rudimentary Organs," "Modifications," "Communities," "Ants," "Senses," "Sense of Direction," "Length of Life." Some of these topics have formed subjects of serious original study by the author. A paragraph on the importance of the smaller animals is a timely one in a popular book. The general reading public will not be disturbed by finding a place in the book here for bacteria, while students of natural history will look for them among plants.

Two very interesting paragraphs close the chapters on animal life, one on "Individuality," and another on "Immortality."

The chapter on plant life relates some interesting observations on the mutual dependence of insects and flowers, besides paragraphs on "Fruits and Seeds," "Leaves," "Aquatic Leaves," "On Hairs," "Influence of Soil," "On Seedlings," "Sleep of Plants," "Behaviour of Leaves in Rain," "Mimicry," "Insectivorous Plants," and "Movements of Plants."

The remaining chapters on physical geography and astronomy are treated much in the same way. The book, while very interesting reading, cannot be said to fill any real want of a book on any subject of natural science in a school library. It attempts to cover too many things in too small space for that. But as an embellishment for such a library it will be found to be useful.

G. F. Atkinson.

The Colonial Era. BY REV. GEORGE P. FISHER, D.D., LL.D.,
Professor Ecclesiastical History, Yale University. Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1892.

This work is the first of a series of five volumes intended to constitute The American History Series. As its title indicates this volume covers the period from the Discovery to the Revolu-

tion—1492-1756. The publishers in speaking of the series say that "it is designed to be eminently *history* as distinguished from the chronicle of annals, and explain the significance as well as recount the course of events. . . . It will be in a word, a literary and philosophical history of the *people* of the United States." This is a very worthy and a very high ideal for publishers and author. This review aims to see how far the standard has been reached.

In the selection and distribution of his material—made, and to be judged, on the basis of its relative value as determined by its relation to the problem in hand—the author has been more successful than many of his predecessors. Still on certain points he leaves something to be desired.

Chapter I—3 pp.—is devoted to Physical Geography. The right to introduce this subject rests upon its connection with history. Hence, only such facts are to be discussed as can aid in explaining history. It must be admitted also that the geographical facts selected must be treated in a manner that will reveal their influence upon the life of a people, or at least will permit the student to readily infer this influence. In the first place this chapter omits some very striking facts, such as the abundant animal life on the land and in the sea, facts which most powerfully influenced colonial, industrial and commercial life. Could the colonies have existed without this animal life? In the second place, most of the facts introduced can be, by inference, but not otherwise, traced in their historical bearings.

A wiser use of space and effort would have been to give the 6½ pp. devoted to the Indians to geography and the 3 pp. of the latter to the former. For Indian life and institutions have little vital connection with American life and institutions. How the history of the "people of the United States" has been affected by the Mound Builders, the Incas, the Aztecs, and the North American tribes, is the fundamental question. The author has answered this fairly well by touching these peoples very sparingly, but some of the facts enumerated have not the remotest connection with his problem.

In the chapter on Discovery, Professor Fisher shows rare judgment in giving to English efforts as much space as to the attempts of all competing nations. The wealth and variety of material in this period leads many authors astray. Losing sight of the principle of continuity, they have found themselves writing Spanish, French or Portuguese history or biography.

The distribution of pages among the three groups of English colonies, also, reveals an intelligent sense of proportion. However, if the New England group is entitled to 108 pp. and the Southern to 90 pp., it may be asked why the Middle colonies are only given 61 pp.? This proportion may be defended on the ground that life in the Middle group was not in marked contrast

with that found in the others, partaking as it did of some of the features of both, and that since New England and the South developed the most striking contrasts in our history, these contrasts should be somewhat fully set forth.

The work on these groups is the best feature of the volume, and is of a high order. Here is well traced the continuity of ideas and institutions, as well as the succession of events. This is particularly skillfully done in tracing the connections between the religious life of New England and that of the mother country. The development of the political institutions of New England is not so connectedly revealed to the reader. In dealing with the Bay colony the author has not lived up to his opportunity. To trace the continuous diffusion of rights and privileges—political and religious—from the point where all power was in the hands of the charter members down to the revolution of 1688, is to connect the leading events of that period with the most fundamental movement in the life of the Colony. As its cause, or as its effect, this movement will explain the *extension* of suffrage from charter members to church members, why representation was given to the towns, why local courts were established, why town government was voted by the General Court, why the Body of Liberties was created, why public sentiment grew toward Roger Williams and Mrs. Hutchinson, why the General Court was divided into two bodies, why the free school was established, and why public sentiment was willing to tolerate the Quakers in a few years, and so on. Such a treatment would not only be historical, but pedagogical as well—would not only show a continuity that really existed, but would greatly aid the student in organizing facts that seem at first glance to be isolated.

The volume would have been strengthened if a chapter had been added which dealt with the common elements in the Southern groups of colonies.

In the chapter on the Revolution of 1688, and in some of the chapters that follow, are pointed the tendencies making for the union of the thirteen colonies—the germs of that movement which crowned the American Revolution. While the discussion is necessarily not full on the point, yet it is much better done than in some other more elaborate works.

Taking it all in all, *The Colonial Era* is a good book, and considering its size, 12 mo., 348 pp., it will rank among the best. It has a serviceable chronological table, a fair index, ten pages of bibliography, and three maps—a Physical Map of the United States, one on Original Grants, and one of the American Colonies in 1755.

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